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Pacific Heights South

Sunday, October 19th, 1997
1:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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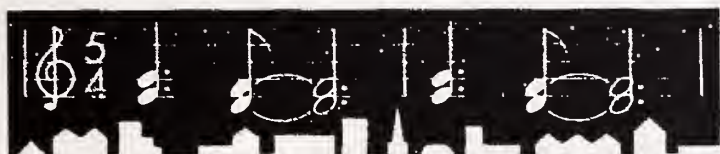
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elcome to the Victorian Alliance's 1997
tour of Pacific Heights South!

For many years this neighborhood between California and Sutter Streets was a sort of nobody's land between Pacific Heights and the Western Addition. Then in the early 1970s the Pacific Heights Residents Association included it in their boundaries of concern, and about the same time realtors began calling it "Baha Pacific Heights."

Victorian houses in upper Pacific Heights had almost all been rehabilitated and priced out of reach by that time. Enterprising were busy in this fringe area purchasing "fixer-uppers", which has become quite a place to look at by 1997.

Historically the term "Western Addition," now applied to property south of Geary Street, should cover all the area from Market Street to the San Francisco Bay, and from Larkin Street to Presidio Avenue. It was surveyed under that name in 1854, and lots were reserved for a schoolhouse, now Cobb School, on Pine Street and for a fire-house on California. These original sites are only part of the present lots for the buildings.

There was very little development in the whole Western Addition before 1870, but about 1866 the Dominican fathers bought the entire block bounded by Pine, Steiner, Bush, and Pierce Streets. Their first church on the block opened in the 1870s. A larger church building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. The present St. Dominic's dates from about 1928.

Classically, development is encouraged by the existence of public transportation routes, and the Western Addition is no exception. The first line in the area was the Central Railroad Company. About 1862 they began running horse cars out Turk Street to Fillmore, up Fillmore to Post, and out to Presidio Avenue where the cemeteries lay. By 1873 the Central also had a branch on Bush Street from Polk to Fillmore to California to Presidio to Geary. In 1875 it opened a fourth branch from Polk out Pacific to Fillmore. The cars on these lines were all drawn by horses. The first cable car in the neighborhood was the line on California, which opened in 1878 to Fillmore Street, and in 1879 extended to Presidio Avenue.

The Neighborhood

Also in 1879 the Sutter Street Railway extended its cable line out Sutter from Larkin to Presidio Avenue.

In the early 1870s tract developments began to be constructed in the area. The first were Tuckerville, by noted architect David Farquharson, on the block bound by Jackson, Buchanan, Washington and Webster Streets. The Real Estate Associates (TREA)'s built the first of many tracts on the block bounded by Fillmore, Sacramento, Steiner and Clay. TREA was later to build tracts on Pine, Pierce, Bush and Sutter in Pacific Heights South.

By 1880 Fillmore was already becoming a neighborhood commercial street, and many of the houses now in the vicinity already existed. St. Paul's Episcopal Church was built about 1878 on the current site of the Grand Central Market. The Crocker Old People's Home at Pine and Pierce, later called Rose Court now vacant and boarded up, was constructed in 1889, by architect A. Page Brown architect. St. Rose School, unfortunately demolished in September 1991, was built at the same intersection in 1904, Albert Pissis architect. As early as the 1890s there was a telephone exchange at the corner of Pine and Steiner, replaced in 1907 by the building that's now offices, which in turn was replaced in 1932 by the Art Deco building on the opposite corner. At 1883 Bush Street, Congregation Ohabai Shalom built a Moorish-looking sanctuary out of wood in 1881.

Early in the 20th century Japanese immigrants began to congregate in the area between California and Geary, Fillmore and about Franklin. By the 1920 census there were many Japanese Americans in that area, most living together in very crowded conditions. They bought real estate and built their own shopping street on Post and on Pine and Octavia. A Catholic Church is there, and a school with Japanese-style roofs, and a Buddhist headquarters designed in the 1930s by George Shimamoto, the first licensed Japanese-American architect. During World War II all forced to leave, and that story is detailed for the house at 1935 Webster. After the war they vowed never to be ghettoized again, and they moved all over the city. All this preceded the somewhat sanitized Japantown we know today.

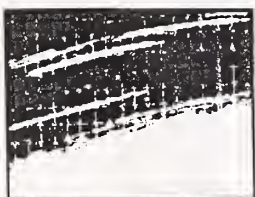
In the 1960s Redevelopment reached the neighborhood. Western Addition Area Two came, no it still comes, up to the center of Bush Street. Many historic houses were torn down. Others were moved, like 1735 Webster and the ones on Sutter opposite Cottage Row. Even the houses allowed to remain suffered the indignity of required stripping to the studs. We have to be thankful that Area Two didn't come all the way up to California Street!

Beginning about the 1970s more and more houses in Pacific Heights South have been painted and rehabilitated. The Victorian Alliance volunteers hope you will enjoy the ones we offer you today.

Sincerely,

Vikki-Marie Powers, President

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The Jackson House is one of a set pressed from the same mold on this side of the street. The other side was a different speculative designer-builder and has subtle differences. Can you find them?

The other side of the street was built by The Real Estate Associates in 1877 and sold for \$3,800 apiece. This side was built by Henry Hinkel in 1881 and sold for \$4,500 each. (For a rough guess adjust these figures for inflation, multiply by 100 or a little more.) Both sides are Italianate in style, which means five-sided bay windows, tall ceilings, tall and narrow windows and doors, a big cornice resting on brackets and hiding the sloping roof.

Henry Hinkel was one of five brothers who were each in the spec building business. Henry was the oldest, born in 1846, and he died prematurely in April 1882. These were some of the last houses he built. He did similar rows on the 2200 block of Webster, at the southeast corner of Bush and Buchanan, the 1800 block of Lyon, and the 1900 block of Webster. #6 on today's tour.

Typically, he bought the bare land, half a block or 137.5 feet by 87.5 feet deep, in August of 1881, for \$5,500. He'd probably already had an arrangement with a bank, and he simply took possession on the same day as he sold the first of the six houses he built on the block.

This house he sold to Annie Jackson for \$4,500. We don't know just who she was, because 19th century publications tended to leave women out. We can guess that she was a widow with at least two grown children, and that they all lived in the house for two or three years. Or she could have been the sister of the two men who were listed here in 1882. John N. and Marcus A. Jackson both worked for Edward F. Hall and Company, stockbrokers. John was their bookkeeper and Marcus their cashier.

By the way, the Jackson's address was 1805 Pierce. One has to be careful in researching old houses, because addresses have changed over the years. Usually in this part of town the hundreds digits stay the same, while the last two change. But Pierce Street was actually renumbered at some point in the 19th century.

After the Jacksons, most of the owners for many years seem to have been women absentees about whom little or nothing is known. Somebody named Anne J. Boardman owned the house in 1894. One



Theresa E. Nelson owned it in 1901. The 1906 owner was Angelica Ralston. We do know a little about her because she lived in the house when the 1900 census taker came by, but most of the time until she sold it in 1912 she was another absentee owner.

The Ralston family were, indeed notable. Angelica's husband was Henry E. Ralston, the president of Ralston Iron Works, which manufactured "architectural and ornamental iron works, fences, doors, etc. [and were] general housesmiths." He also had owned the Pacific Tin and Sheet Iron Works in partnership with one George H. Nelson, possibly the husband of the house's previous owner, Theresa Nelson.

Angelica Ralston sold the house in 1912 to Marie B. and Jeremiah D. McCarthy. This couple, at last, did live here until they sold it in 1935. He was a clerk to start, an adjuster for PG&E later on.

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The garden of the Ortman-Shumate House is visible from the street only as a low brick fence, a hedge, and a row of cypresses. Behind them are more trees and hints of a large white house. The house, which is *NOT* open today, emerges as a fine Italianate, two stories behind the large, rather formal garden.

House, garden and driveway together, surrounded by the ell of Cobb School playground, comprise a real estate entity once numerous but now very rare, a 50-vara lot. The term comes from a Spanish measure, the vara, 2.75 feet long. Mexican San Francisco was surveyed into square lots 50 varas on a side, 137.5 x 137.5 feet, six such lots to a square block. This system defines the street pattern from the San Francisco Bay down to Market Street and out to Presidio Avenue. Many a 19th-century resident built his house on a 50-vara lot and gardened the rest. You see them in old pictures. Here at 1901 Scott is an old picture come alive.

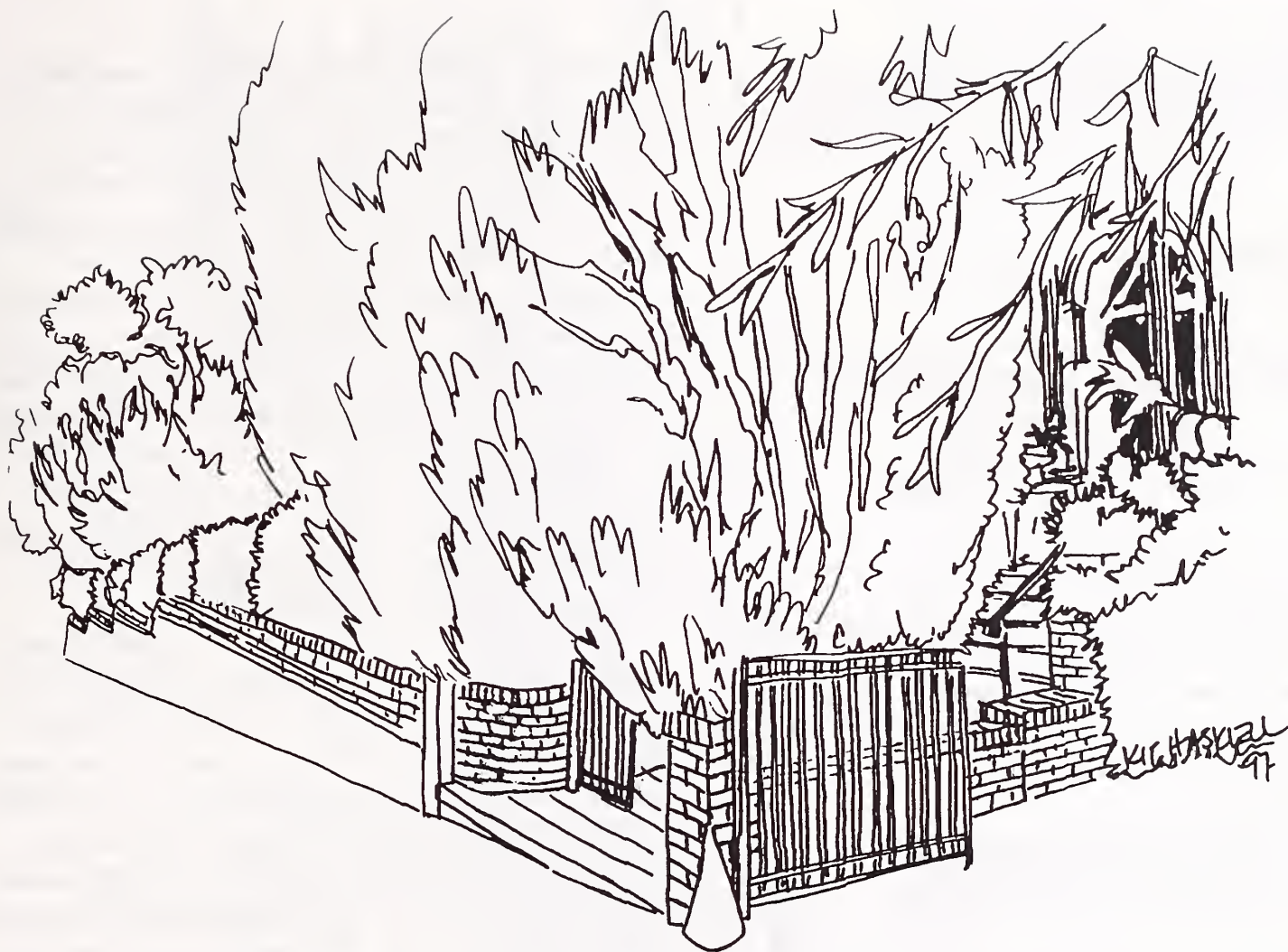
A photo of about 1885 shows the house before some changes that were made around 1889. The Norfolk Island Pine tree that presently towers over the garden was already there. It didn't quite reach the height of the house's second floor. The garden had a wooden picket fence.

The lemon verbena also dates from the 19th century, when an iron fence replaced the pickets. That in turn was replaced by the present brick fence about 1914. The owners who moved in about 1914 planted the large yew trees in the garden, the camellias, and most of the other trees.

The garden is watered from the house's original well, which used to have windmill power.

The reason for this amazing preservation is that the property has been owned by the same family ever since 1870. John Frederick Ortman purchased this 50-vara lot then for \$5,000 or \$8,000, depending on which source you believe. Born in 1829 in Hanover, Germany, Ortman came to California in 1851 and prospered in the grocery business. His wife, Jane Merchant, had come from Ireland, and they had two daughters.

In addition to having the house built, the Ortmans bought the two adjoining lots on California Street where Cobb School playground and part of its building stand today. The farther lot was pasture for the family's cow. On the corner lot two houses were built for the two daughters when they married. The wooded area in the playground was known to the family as the chicken yard, but the present owner does not remember any chickens.



John Ortman died in 1912, and the daughters inherited. One of them had married Dr. Thomas E. Shumate, a physician and proprietor of a pharmacy at Sutter and Divisadero. Eventually he owned a string of 32 pharmacies. The coffee house at Fillmore and Jackson still reads, on its doorstep, "Shumate's."

Their son also became a physician, graduate of Stanford Medical School when it was in the city. The medical library he studied in survives at the corner of Webster and Sacramento, in the same block as No. 7 on this tour.

A dermatologist, the second Dr. Shumate is quite a scholar and author of several books on California history. He is President Emeritus of the California Historical Society and was the Landmarks Board's first president. He has also chaired several other historical, genealogical and library organizations.

The Shumates moved into 1901 Scott after some remodeling for "modern comfort and style" had been done by William and Christopher Merchant, respectively architect and contractor, and possibly related to Mary Merchant Ortman, Mrs. Shumate's mother. However the major exterior remodeling had been constructed about 1889.

The 1885 photo had shown the house with its lovely round-headed windows, Corinthian columned porch and many-bracketed cornice around all four sides. However, the building was shallower than it is now, and the front bay window just one story tall. The roof was hipped or four-sloped, without any attic window, and it had a widow's walk on top.

In 1889 a second story was added to the front bay window, and the roof shape was changed to make an attic with Queen-Anne style arch and gable. The house was extended to the rear and the side bay window was added. The new trim matched the then-old-fashioned front.

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The Bertin-Montalbo House is a very conservative design for its 1886 construction date. It is also very elaborate and must have been costly for its time.

The style is mostly Italianate, which went out in the early 1880s. The next fashionable style was Stick, or Stick Eastlake, which was closely related to Italianate but different in bay shape, exterior "sticks" expressing the structure within, and some non-Classical ornament. This house responds to the Stick fashion in the rectangular floor plan of its bay window and the elongated vertical arms of its brackets. But the rest is all Italianate: vertical emphasis, big projecting cornice resting on brackets and hiding a sloping roof, Corinthian columns, channel rustic siding, half-round transom.

Unless the house was built earlier than 1886 and did not obtain for water service until that year, it must be called a bit old-fashioned in style. This conservatism agrees with the fact that no architect has been found. It seems to have been designed by the building contractor, and that usually means a "safe" design.

One Alexander Bertin signed for the water service in 1886. He owned the house until about 1902, but he never lived here. His lot went all the way through to California, and he was responsible for the house there, now numbered 2549-2551 California. He did live there in 1894 with his son and partner Ferdinand. Their business was a dyeing and cleaning establishment with shops at 430 Bush, 1400 Polk, 325 Columbus and 6 Stockton. In those days classified sections listed, not dry cleaners, but "Dyers and Scourers." It was probably a different process from modern dry cleaning. The 1886 directory listed 24 such businesses, one of which was established in 1854. There were about four times as many laundries, not even counting the Chinese ones, which in those days were listed separately.

The first tenants known, about 1888 through 1901, were Margaret and Arabella Scott. Margaret was a widow, born in Pennsylvania in 1820, and her late husband had come from the same state. Their daughter Belle was born in Missouri in 1870, indicating a westward progression of the family. Belle was the principal of the Lester Norris Memorial Free Kindergarten, then of the Jackson Street Kindergarten. By 1908 she was teaching in a public school.



Thus Arabella Scott figured in the early history of kindergartens. They had been introduced to the United States in the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 and weren't part of the public school system until the early 1900s. Quite a few kindergartens were charitable operations run to give working class and/or immigrant children a head start on their American education. Jane Stanford (founder of the University) and Phoebe Apperson Hearst (benefactor of U.C. Berkeley) each donated several kindergartens. The first in San Francisco, and the most famous, was the Silver Street Kindergarten, run by Kate Douglas Wiggin, author of *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. Belle Scott's first kindergarten memorialized Lester Norris, the brother of Frank Norris, the muck-raking San Francisco novelist.

After the Scotts' landlord, the next owner was Catherine Foley, wife of Francis Foley. In her court case to re-establish title to the property after many of the Recorder's documents had been

burned in the 1906 firestorm, Catherine Foley claimed that she lived in the house with tenants. The only tenant discovered to date was Albert Villain, a doctor registered to vote in 1905. Foley owned the property the rest of her life.

Her estate sold it in 1924 to Pedro D. and Julia R. Montalbo. They made the house their home, and their daughter Mary was listed here in 1940 as a stenographer. Pedro Montalbo was a sugar worker at first, then a boilermaker, then a mechanic for Hermann Safe Company until he retired. He died about 1972, and Julia sold the house in October 1973.

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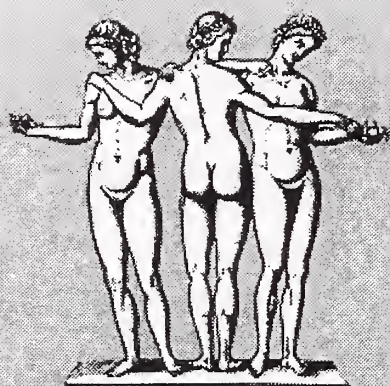
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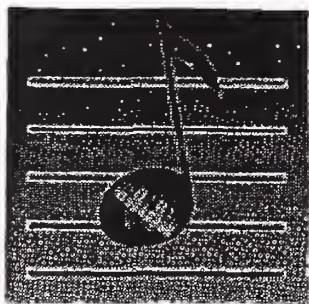
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The Victorian Alliance recommends a stroll down Cottage Row even though its houses are too small to accept a tour.

This narrow opening between 2113 and 2115 Bush Street leads to an enchanted, tiny enclave of plum trees and ivy, where a brick footpath leads by six identical houses. They're all invisible behind the other houses lining Bush and Sutter Streets.

The houses are as tiny as the walkway, only 20 feet wide and 23 feet deep. The inside is even smaller, subtracting for wall thicknesses, stairs, bath, kitchen and storage. Yet each has a back yard, all of five feet deep.

Each house shares side walls with its neighbors, and so close are they that the right side of each one's eaves dies into the next-door roof. Only the left side of the eaves ends "properly," supported by a single bracket and with moldings carried around the corner. Miniaturization extends to narrow doorways and a window's trim melting into the eaves trim. Expertly managed proportions give the impression the house is bigger than its actual size.

The style label here is Stick, for the vertical sticks of wood that express the framing within and decorate the gable's triangle. Note the delightful brackets at door hood and left eave: jigsaw cut simply from one-inch boards, with a doughnut hole cutout.

Minor changes have occurred over the years, making the houses no longer strictly identical. One has lost the divisions in its windows and gained security grills. Another acquired plywood panels below the windows and shingles on the basement. One has new windows with Post-Modern divisions. But the overall effect remains unimpaired, enhanced by the garden setting.

They were built in 1882, as rental property for "Colonel" Charles L. Taylor, whose company owned them for the next 30 years. The houses, the walkway and the masking house at 2113 Bush together were a single piece of property, all developed by Taylor as rentals. A Maine native, Taylor had sailed to San Francisco in 1850, had carried on lumber and shipping businesses, and settled prosperously into marine insurance in the 1860s. At different times he was on the school board, the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, and the SF Board of Supervisors.

The folks who lived on Cottage Row are hard to trace. The first known inhabitant of No. 3 was Abigail Nash, born in Canada in 1831, widow of

Thomas Nash, the carpenter-builder who had constructed the houses in 1882. Nash may have received part of his pay in future lodgings, for in 1882 and 1883 he lived in one of Taylor's houses, 2103 Bush, and 1886-1889 he was at 2 Cottage Row.

After his death, Abigail Nash continued at No. 2 through 1892. Then she moved to one of the units at 2113 Bush for 1893-1896. Directories failed to list her for a few years, as they often did to women in those days, and she reappeared in 1900-1901 at No. 3. In 1900 the U.S. Census taker found her living there alone.

The 1910 census reported three residents in No. 3 Cottage Row. John Laibo, 29, was a steam schooner sailor who had come to the U.S. from Finland in 1906. His bride Elinor also came from Finland. Their lodger Mary Green was a dressmaker from Sweden.

In the 1930s so many Japanese-Americans lived on Cottage Row that it was nicknamed "Japan Street." They grew vegetables in their tiny back yards, and offered them for sale at an informal open market held Saturdays along the Row.



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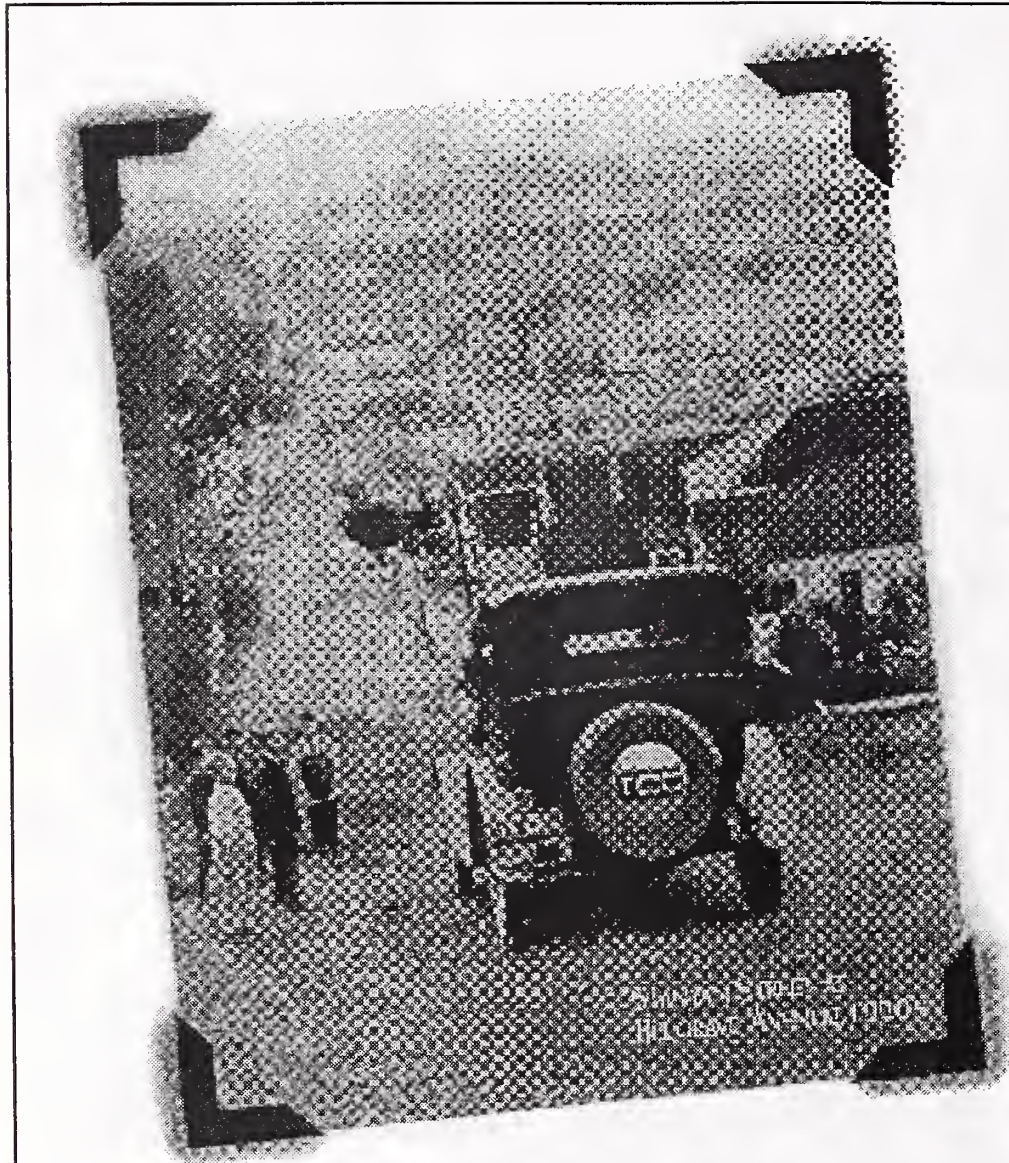
History: In the early 1970's , after San Francisco endured two decades of accelerating demolition and "modernization," a group of concerned residents formed the Victorian Alliance to promote preservation and restoration.

Purpose: The initial purpose of the Alliance was to share helpful information on such things as materials, techniques, contractors, and artisans with those wishing to restore their Victorian houses, and to educate and

lobby city officials and the public to the values of historic preservation. Over the years, Alliance concerns with preservation have widened to support the retention and renovation of most residential neighborhoods -- regardless of architectural style.

Functions:

1. The initial function -- to support those engaged in the mysterious, often frustrating but rewarding tasks of renovation and restoration -- remains paramount.
2. We share information on preservation, history, architecture, current activities, items for sale, etc., at our regular monthly meetings as well as in our monthly bulletin.
3. With cash donations and member-expertise, we support city and neighborhood projects dealing with restoration and preservation. Most of our cash resources come from funds raised by Alliance activities such as house tours. We have no paid staff, no paid officers -- and no office; hence, because of our voluntary efforts, almost all funds raised are available for preservation and restoration projects.
4. When preservation issues arise, we lobby and testify at city and neighborhood meetings.



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The Theresa Hahn House has a mirror twin next door at No. 2035. In fact they share a wall as well as a staircase and the design. They're an especially good pair because both have survived 110 years without serious exterior alterations. In fact, they were originally a single piece of property, constructed in 1887 as a duplex rental for the owners of the altered or replaced house beyond at 2037 Bush.

The Italianate style of the mirror twins was still fashionable in 1887, as the Queen Anne style was about to come in, and Stick style had been the rage between the two. The only Stick elements that you see here are the elongated brackets at window and door tops, and the floor plan of the bay window, which is something between the rectangle of the Stick style and the half-octagon of the Italianate.

Of course, Stick style always included a lot of Italianate elements: the tall ceilings, tall and narrow windows and doors, channel rustic siding, lots of moldings, big bracketed cornice hiding the sloping roof behind. This house also has elements purely Italianate, like the Corinthian column capitals, the cabling (or reverse fluting) lower on the columns, and the two-dimensional cut-out ornaments.

The somewhat retardaire aspect of the house's appearance is a hint that the place was probably designed by a contractor-builder, rather than an architect. The designer is unknown, but probably a regular architect would have given the clients something more up-to-date. A contractor-builder would have been more likely to play it safe by sticking to what he knew would sell, and in this case he probably was conforming to the taste of a particular client, rather than building on speculation.

The clients Theresa Hahn and her husband August lived at 2037 Bush as long as he was alive, and they rented out the duplex to tenants. August Hahn had two businesses, neither of them immensely profitable. A. Hahn & Company made wagons and shoed horses down in the first block of Broadway. Hahn & Keller were a dairy, located in 1882 on Central between Grove and Fulton. By 1886, the area became more developed. He moved the cows out to 19th Avenue between Lawton and Moraga, or L and M as they were called then. The Sunset location, with less human pollution, probably also made for healthier milk.

August Hahn retired before 1894, and died not long after. His widow Theresa continued to own all

three houses. She moved into the one on the tour today and let her son August and his family use 2037. They were married about 1893 and had two sons, plus a lodger. August Hahn Junior did not inherit his father's business; he was a trucker.

Meanwhile Theresa Hahn made a home at 2033 Bush for herself and her widowed daughter Annie Hoffman and Annie's son Harold, born in 1886. The 1900 census recorded Annie's date of birth as 1865, and Theresa's as 1837. She had come from Germany in 1855, and her late husband had come from the same country.

The census shows Theresa Hahn as owner of 2033 Bush, and her son as renter of 2037. The twin house at 2035 Bush was rented to the family of Samuel Baden, another German-American, manufacturer of "ladies goods." With that income, Theresa still rented space in her own dwelling to three different lodgers. They were Otto Rauhut, a violinist; Joseph M. Cohen, who designed and cut neckwear; and Virginia Platt, a dressmaker.




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The Helen and Crittendon Thornton House was built in 1879 in the popular Italianate style. The contractor-developer-designer was Henry Hinkel, who also built 1911 Pierce Street on today's tour. The house has had only six owner families, all resident. The fourth stripped off the trim and covered the house with stucco. The present owners stripped off the stucco and found "shadows" of the original trim to guide restoration. They added the balcony and stair rail.

Hinkel sold the house in April 1879 for \$6,400 to Charles E. Green, private secretary to David Colton, the junior partner of Southern Pacific's "big four." Colton's widow Ellen was then being pressured by the remaining SP triumvirate to return all his SP-related holdings. In August 1879 she gave in and agreed to do so, including SP stock given to their older daughter Helen upon her marriage. Later she felt defrauded, and she sued them.

In the very month that Ellen Colton signed the agreement, Green "sold" 1935 Webster to her at the price he'd paid for it. She immediately gave it to her daughter. Helen and Crittendon Thornton, who was an attorney, settled quietly into the house with their baby daughter and two live-in servants. In 1891 they sold the house and moved to a bigger one on Pacific.

Next came the Ellert family: Levi, Sarah, and their 5-year-old son Arthur. Levi had a drug store at Kearny and California, and he was in politics. Many American cities were being run by political bosses, who did not themselves hold office but produced favors for those who paid or who carried out the boss's orders. Civil service and the direct primary were invented to prevent boss rule. San Francisco had bosses of both major parties, the most notorious being Democratic "Blind Boss Buckley," who ran the city 1879-1891, and Republican Boss Abe Ruef, who held sway 1901-1907.

Levi Ellert was first elected to the Board of Supervisors as a Republican in 1888. According to chronicler Walton Bean, that year the party's local boss died, and Ruef graduated to a lieutenantcy. The 1890 election was awash in SP funds, and a subsequent grand jury investigation drove Boss Buckley out of town. The Democrats' new "good" boss, Gavin McNabb, supervised to 1901.

In 1892 when McNabb's reformers first won, Ellert was elected Mayor as an independent. He seems to have been clean, refusing to permit city financing of the Midwinter Fair but happily presiding over the occasion itself. He also passed the bar exam while Mayor. After he died in 1901, the family kept the house until 1934.

The buyer was Shotaro Tsuruoka, teenage son of Tokutaro and Dai Tsuruoka. The house was in his name because California's Alien Land Law of 1913 forbade "aliens ineligible for citizenship" to own land. Born here, Shotaro was a U.S. citizen, but his Japanese immigrant parents were denied citizenship by laws in effect until 1952. Dai had probably come here before 1908, when immigration was closed to Japanese men. Wives and families were admitted

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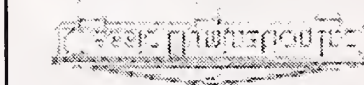


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until 1924. The Tsuruokas were listed in SF 1933-34 (Dai as a salesman on Post Street) and 1939-40, living here without occupation. In 1941 Dai was listed here alone, working as a florist. They probably first created the house's lovely Japanese garden in back.

Then, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor got the U.S. into World War II. Immediately the FBI arrested some 2,000 Japanese nationals. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt authorized the mass expulsion of Japanese Americans. In March the head of the Army's Western Defense Command announced removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry, alien or citizen. Over the next four months he issued 108 separate "Civilian Exclusion Orders," each for a particular area. The residents were ordered out of their homes, transported with only what they could carry, and incarcerated. For citizen or alien, baby or grandfather, there was no hearing, no trial, no appeal.

Civilian Exclusion Order #20

took in the area from California to Sutter, Presidio to Van Ness. It was issued on Friday, April 24, 1942. Family representatives had to report for instructions on the 25th or 26th. Evacuation took place on Friday May first. One week to wrap up one's life, take care of business and possessions. Pets were forbidden. Everything being carried had to be packaged. The people themselves were labeled. At Tanforan racetrack they were "housed" in horse stalls, grandstands, and tarpaper shacks.

Officials excused this shameful behavior as "military necessity," but public opinion was the real driving force. The Army knew the West Coast was not seriously threatened. Hawaii never evacuated its Japanese Americans. Even after early June 1942, when the Japanese Navy was immobilized, the government continued to divert money, transport, personnel and materials from the real war effort, in order to build and maintain the concentration camps. Italian Americans suffered similar treatment, but only for a short while; German Americans weren't bothered at all. Hindsight shows it as a clear case of racial prejudice.

What happened to 1935 Webster? Shotaro Tsuruoka sold it April 28, 1942, during that fateful week. He signed the papers in Fresno; maybe he and his mother had joined family there. It's said that evacuees got 10% of value, but Tsuruoka may have fared better. He paid \$2,500 in 1934 and sold for \$3,750 in 1942.

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Temple Sherith Israel was a unique design from its superb architect Albert Pissis (pronounced PIE-sis). He usually produced Classical Revival buildings like the Emporium, the Flood Building, and the medical library on the next corner at Webster and Sacramento.

Here on California the mood is weighty, round-arched Romanesque with a touch of the Middle East. None of Pissis' other buildings has such an emphasis on the heavy horizontal, or such thickly layered clusters of columns and concentric arches. Also unusual for Pissis are the columns tops' thick foliage designs, crisply carved in sandstone (now painted), the dark and deeply recessed entry porch, the great rose window. The building announces itself as a religious structure, but not a Christian one.

Sherith Israel was one of two Jewish Congregations that by April 1851 had emerged from a tent meeting for the High Holy Days in 1849. The rivalry with Congregation Emanu-El has continued ever since. Congregation Sherith Israel has always been the more conservative and less prestigious of the two. The lion's share of membership has swung back and forth between them more than once.

The name means "loyal remnant of Israel," which the Hebrews in Gold Rush California must have felt themselves to be. Congregation Sherith Israel has not trumpeted itself about the community at large or produced any books about its own history. It has gone about its high work quietly, among its own people.

The Congregation's first building was dedicated September 3, 1854, on Stockton Street north of Broadway. From 1870 to 1905 they met at Post and Taylor, where the Bohemian Club is now. The present building was dedicated September 23, 1905, before a throng estimated at 2,500 worshippers.

Nearly seven months later, Temple Sherith Israel survived the great earthquake with only \$1,000 worth of damage. The City soon borrowed it, at a handsome rental fee, as a temporary courthouse.

Political boss Abe Ruef and others stood trial for corruption in the City's Great Graft Clean-up under the blue dome with hundreds of sparkling electric lights, windows showing interlace patterns or psalms and religious symbols painted by Attilio Maretti.



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Ironically, Ruef's parents were members. Their Rabbi Jacob Nieto tried without success to arrange some sort of plea bargain between Ruef and the crusading District Attorney Francis Heney. But neither was willing to compromise. In the long run Ruef was the only one of the grafters who went to jail. The graft trials had severely divided the larger community. When Heney started prosecuting the people who paid the graft money, the town's movers and shakers felt he was getting too close for comfort. The next election produced a District Attorney who dropped the graft cases.

By that time a new Hall of Justice was functioning on Kearny where the Holiday Inn is now. Temple Sherith Israel returned to the purposes for which it was built. It has remained true to them ever since.

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The Frederick and Anita Wieland House is a recent makeover. The front of the building was covered with inappropriate shingles, and had lost its porch. Now it shines forth gloriously in reconstructed trim and fresh paint. The attic addition is hidden discretely within the reconstructed Mansard roof.

Originally, in 1882, this was a costly house. Frederick Wieland paid \$6,000 for the vacant lot, and over \$10,000 to have the building constructed. These added to nearly three times the original costs of some houses on today's tour. (Remember the inflation multiplier?)

Wieland hired the architectural firm of Kenitzer & Raun to design the house. That would be Henry and Charles Kenitzer, and Edward T. Raun, partners 1870-1886. Raun had been in California since 1849, Henry Kenitzer, from Saxony, since 1854, and his 9-years-younger brother Charles since 1862. Most of their works disappeared in the 1906 fire, but some probably survive in Pacific Heights. They had well-known clients and did a lot of expensive buildings. They must have satisfied the Wielands, because four years later, in 1886, Frederick's brother John had them design the house next door at 2018 California.

The Wielands for whom these houses were built were a different family from the makers of Wieland beer. These were wholesale provisions merchants. They imported items such as butter and cheese, and probably supplied them to mining expeditions and the like. In 1875 the company's personal property had been assessed at \$4,700 for provisions, \$150 for furniture, and \$865 for money.

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By 1886 Frederick Wieland had retired, and he died about 1893. His widow Anita stayed on in the house. Eventually she married one Fred or James Larkin, eight years her junior and a rate clerk with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The 1900 census found them in the house along with the children from her first marriage, Frederick A. Wieland, born in 1875 and continuing in the produce business; her daughter Anita, born in 1883 and later married to dentist Reuben Hale; and a Chinese cook named Look Chin. The property stayed in the family through the 1930s.

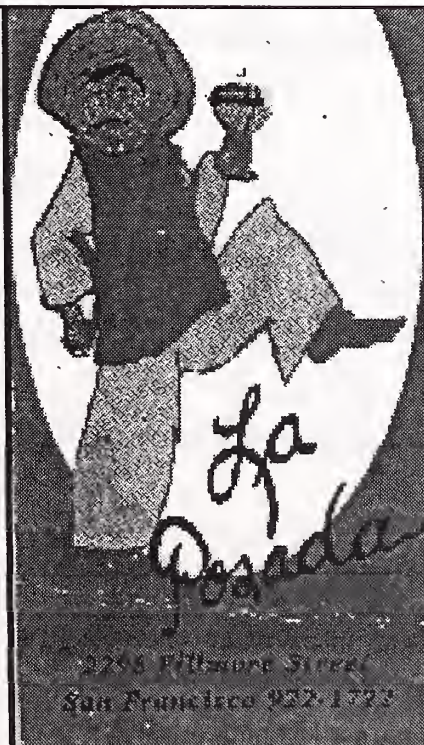


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Trinity Episcopal Church is the last stop on the Victorian Alliance's 1997 tour of Pacific Heights South. Here you will find refreshments, the Victorian Alliance boutique, and other items of interest.

The building has not really changed its outward appearance since its dedication in 1893. The inward activities are quite another question, very service-oriented. The builders would probably be shocked, but religious organizations need to change their programs to suit the times.

The building's design speaks mainly of its geometric forms and its rough-cut gray green sandstone from Colusa. The pointed arches, wall buttresses, crenelations, and turrets look forward stylistically to Collegiate Gothic of the 1920s, rather than sideways to its Victorian Gothic contemporaries, like St. Mark's and the late St. Paulus on Gough Street.

Truly creative, forward-looking designs are typical of Trinity's architect, Arthur Page Brown (1859-1896). Designer of the Ferry Building and the cut down Old People's Home you passed today at Pine

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and Pierce. Brown arrived in San Francisco in 1889 and immediately became society's favorite architect. He imported a style that was urbane, reserved, elegant, scholarly, and symmetrical. He also imported Willis Polk and employed Maybeck, Rousseau, Van Trees and other future leading architects. Trinity dates from 1892 when Brown relied for designs on A.C. Schweinfurth. Brown himself was too busy networking to more than supervise the design.

For Trinity he worked with typical clients. The building committee consisted of William Burchall Hooper, prominent hotelier; William B. Bourn, president of the city's water company and of a PG&E predecessor; and William H. Taylor, head of Risdon Iron Works. Two of the three were fellow Bohemian clubbers with Brown. Only a parish of wealthy community leaders could finance such a large and substantial structure.

Trinity is the oldest Episcopal parish in the west, organized in the summer of 1849. The present building is their fourth. Because it survived 1906 virtually intact, it contains items brought from their previous building on Union Square where Saks is located.

The main interior space is a cross-plan, spacious, light, and of pared-down decoration. Vaulting above has complicated geometry but few moldings. The crossing dome, 63 feet high, rests on plain, ultra-massive columns. Please notice are the Tiffany bronze angel who holds up the lesson to be read, the Tiffany angel window high in the left transept, and the architect's memorial plaque at the rear.



Acknowledgements

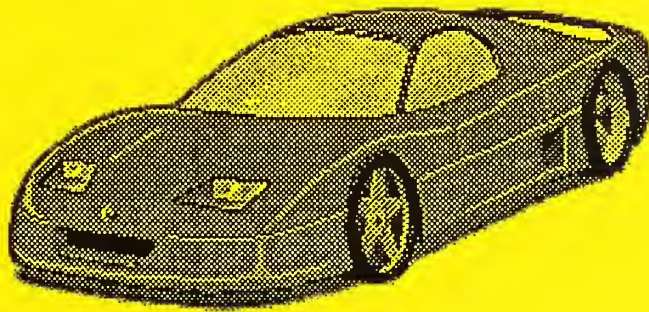
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The Victorian Alliance would like to recognize and express appreciation to the owners of the garden, to each homeowner, to Temple Sherith Israel and Trinity Episcopal Church for opening their doors and for the very existence of Cottage Row. Generosity of this kind contributes to the 1997 Victorian Alliance House Tour's special day.

The Victorian Alliance would like to thank all the docents, ticket sellers, cookie bakers, other workers and helpers who make this event possible. The Alliance thanks our advertisers. We appreciate your support of our annual tour.

The Alliance is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to learning about, enjoying, and preserving the old buildings of San Francisco. Thanks to Margerie and Gordon Grannis for the loan of their beautiful period costumes. We invite you to join. Come to the Alliance Boutique at the church or fill out the form on the back page.

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○ 2. 1901 Scott St.(Garden)

○ 3. 2418 Pine St.

○ 4. Cottage Row

○ 5. 2033 Bush St.

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